

405 Riders Newsletter

Harley Davidson Owners Group

est. June 2026

405 Director: Karen

Email: director@pphog.com

405 Assistant Director: Mark

Email: assistantdirector@pphog.com

Issue 1



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From the Director's Seat

Hello HOG Family!

As we roll deeper into riding season, I just want to take a moment to say how proud I am of this chapter and the incredible energy everyone continues to bring to PPHOG #405. Every event, ride, dinner, meeting, and volunteer opportunity reminds me why this chapter is so special — it's not just about motorcycles, it's about family, friendships, and creating memories together.

We've had an exciting start to the season already! From an overnight ride and chapter gatherings to welcoming new members and preparing for our major summer events, the momentum keeps building. It has been amazing seeing so many members stepping up, volunteering, and helping make our chapter stronger than ever.

A huge thank you goes out to all of our Road Captains, officers, volunteers, and members who continue to dedicate their time and energy to making our events successful. Whether you help lead rides, work registration tables, assist with planning, take photos, organize dinners, or simply show up and support fellow riders — you matter, and this chapter would not be what it is without you.

Our 27th Annual 5 in 1 Ride planning is in full swing, and excitement continues to grow! This event has become one of the premier rides in Colorado, and it takes an incredible team effort to pull it all together. Registration is going strong, and we cannot wait to welcome riders from all over for another epic year of mountain riding, fellowship, and unforgettable memories.

We also continue working on new rider involvement, group riding education, chapter growth, and building more opportunities for members to ride together. One of the greatest things about H.O.G. is that there is something for everyone — whether you are a seasoned long-distance rider or someone just beginning your riding journey.

As always, I encourage everyone to get involved. Attend a ride, volunteer for an event, join us for dinner, or simply introduce yourself to someone new at a meeting. The friendships built here often become lifelong connections.

Most importantly, ride safe, ride smart, and look out for one another. Group riding, communication, and safety remain a priority for our chapter, and together we can continue building a positive riding culture that makes PPHOG #405 stand out.

Thank you all for your continued support, enthusiasm, and dedication to this amazing chapter.

I look forward to seeing all of you down the road!

Ride Safe,

Karen Kloes

Director

Pikes Peak H.O.G. Chapter #405

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From the Head Road Captain

Riding season is officially here, and the miles are already adding up across PPHOG #405! As your Head Road Captain, I want to take a moment to welcome everyone back to another incredible year of riding, camaraderie, and adventure with the best chapter around.

We have an exciting calendar ahead of us — from local day rides and training opportunities to overnight adventures, rallies, and of course our 27th Annual 5 n 1 Ride this July. Whether you're a seasoned Road Captain, a brand-new rider, or somewhere in between, there's a place for you on our rides.

One thing we continue to emphasize this year is safe and confident group riding. Riding in a group is one of the best parts of being involved with H.O.G., but it also takes teamwork, awareness, and communication. Our Road Captains work hard to make every ride organized, safe, and enjoyable for everyone involved. Please remember to:

- Arrive early for rider meetings and fuel up before KSU
- Ride your own ride — never beyond your comfort level
- Maintain proper spacing and staggered formation when appropriate
- Use hand signals and stay alert to changing road conditions
- Respect fellow riders, Road Captains, and sweep riders during group rides

We also encourage newer riders to participate in our small group riding training rides. These rides are a great way to build confidence, learn proper group

riding techniques, and become more comfortable riding with others. We all started somewhere, and the Road Captain team is here to help you grow as a rider.

This year, we're fortunate to have an amazing Road Captain crew that volunteers countless hours planning routes, scouting roads, coordinating stops, and helping keep our chapter rides running smoothly. Please take a moment to thank them when you see them — their dedication is what makes our rides successful.

As we move into the busy riding season, remember that the best memories are made together — whether it's a mountain pass at sunrise, a roadside lunch stop with friends, or simply rolling into the parking lot after another great day in the saddle.

We look forward to seeing everyone out on the road. Ride safe, ride smart, and most importantly... have fun!

See you at KSU!

Jim (Jimbo) Wiley

Head Road Captain

Pikes Peak H.O.G. Chapter #405

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Wild Hogs Ride Recap

April 24, 2026, by Bob Sumrall

Wild Hogs... What a Ride!!

The **First Annual Wild Hogs Ride** is officially in the books and if you missed it, you truly missed a great one.

On Friday, April 24th, **27 bikes and 31 riders** rolled out before sunrise, bound for Las Vegas for Day 1 of an unforgettable three-day adventure.

It started a little chilly, but riders began arriving at the Maverik station (Woodmen & Campus) as early as 6:15 AM. After a quick safety briefing at 6:45, it was **kickstands up at 7:00 AM**, and we were on the road.

Day 1: Southbound & Scenic

We headed south on I-25 with our first stop at Love's in Walsenburg, where three more bikes joined the group. From there, the ride turned scenic in a hurry.

Our first Discover Colorado stop was the incredible Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. Towering dunes, some reaching 750 feet, rise against the dramatic Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Pictures were taken, boots filled with sand, and the trip was officially underway.

Next stop: Manassa, home of boxing legend Jack Dempsey, known as the "Manassa Mauler." A quick stop at his memorial gave us a glimpse into the roots of a true American champion.

From there, we rolled to one of the most unique stops of the trip, Cano's Castle. Built from

scrap metal, hubcaps, and aluminum cans, this evolving structure is part art installation, part spiritual tribute. Created by Dominic "Cano" Espinoza as a thank-you to God after surviving Vietnam, it's something you must see to believe.

Lunch followed just down the road at Dos Hermanas, where we were welcomed like family. Great food, great service, and the perfect reset before heading south.

From Taos, we picked up NM-518, a hidden gem. Sweeping curves, light traffic, and stunning mountain views made this one of the best stretches of the ride. As it turns out, we were riding through areas featured in the movie *Wild Hogs* itself.

We arrived just after 5:00 PM at the historic Plaza Hotel. Opened in 1882, the hotel overlooks Old Town Plaza and features 14-foot ceilings, original antiques, and a stunning walnut staircase. It has hosted its share of notable guests and appeared in films like *No Country for Old Men*, *Easy Rider* and *Longmire*.

Day 1 Evening: Fellowship & Fun

That evening, we gathered in the Grand Ballroom for pizza, drinks, chocolate mousse, and great conversation. After a few door prizes, we settled in for a group showing of *Wild Hogs*, which might have been one of the highlights of the entire trip.

There was a lot of laughter, a lot of engagement, and a shared sense that we were living our own version of the movie. And it was only the first Day!

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Day 2: Turquoise Trail & Route 66

Day 2 started with **kickstands up at 8:00 AM**. A quick gas stop reminded us that 31 bikes and four pumps require patience, but the attitudes stayed positive and the jokes kept rolling.

Our first destination was Wicked West Harley-Davidson. We arrived just after opening, and the rumble of the Pikes Peak Chapter made an impression. The team came out to greet us, had drinks ready, and made us feel right at home.

Next stop: Madrid, NM and the famous Maggie's Diner—built as a movie set for *Wild Hogs*. Photos were taken, laughs were shared, and for a moment, we were all part of the film.

We continued along the Turquoise Trail toward Albuquerque and Thunderbird Harley-Davidson. Along the way, we connected with historic Route 66, the legendary “Mother Road.”

Thunderbird was hosting an event, making it a lively and fun stop. Let's just say... a few more t-shirts were added to the collection.

Lunch took us to downtown Albuquerque at 505 Central Food Hall, with plenty of options for everyone. Some riders opted for Ex Novo Brewing Company for a more relaxed sit-down experience.

A Smart Call

As the afternoon progressed, wind conditions at Sandia Crest began to deteriorate, just as both Harley-Davidson dealerships had warned us. With safety first, the group made a game-time decision to skip the Crest and return to Las Vegas.

It was the right call.

The evening was relaxed and open, with riders walking to local restaurants, enjoying dinner, a few adult beverages, and great conversation.

Another great day in the books.

Day 3: Mountains, Meaning & the Ride Home

Day 3 began early with **kickstands up at 7:00 AM**.

Breakfast was at Charlie's Spic & Span Bakery & Café, a local favorite with plenty of space for our group and a true small-town feel.

After fueling up, we divided into three groups and headed toward Angel Fire and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a H.O.G. Coin Stop as part of the *50 Rides, One Nation* program.

The ride along NM-518 through Carson National Forest was outstanding; winding roads, light traffic, and beautiful scenery. The final miles were under construction, but thankfully still paved.

At the memorial, we took time to reflect. It's a powerful tribute to those who served, and a meaningful stop for the group.

A light drizzle moved through the area, just enough to keep things interesting. A few riders put on rain gear, which of course guaranteed the rain would stop.

Looking east, we could see weather moving in, so we turned west toward Raton.

Final Stops & Final Miles

We stopped for fuel at a new Maverik in

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Raton before heading to lunch at K-Bob's Steakhouse. The salad bar was a hit, and the space handled our group perfectly.

Crossing back into Colorado, we made our fourth Discover Colorado stop at the "Welcome to Colorful Colorado" sign, a quick and easy photo opportunity.

From there, we rode on to our fifth and final Discover Colorado stop at the Ludlow Memorial, honoring the miners and families who lost their lives in the Ludlow Massacre and their fight for safer working conditions.

One final stretch brought us to Pueblo. Earlier groups experienced some wind over Raton Pass into Walsenburg, while the lunch group caught a little, but overall, conditions improved as we moved north.

After saying our goodbyes in Pueblo, we headed up I-25. One by one, riders peeled off toward home, Castle Rock, Littleton, and beyond, until the group slowly faded down to just a few.

Final Word

What started as **27 bikes and 31 riders** turned into something much more than a ride.

Over three days, we covered:

- Five Discover Colorado stops
- Two Harley-Davidson dealership check-ins
- One H.O.G. Coin Stop

But more importantly, we shared:

- Incredible roads
- Unique destinations

- Plenty of laughs
- And the kind of camaraderie that makes this chapter special

A great three days. A true Wild Hogs adventure.

What a ride.



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Guymon Oklahoma 5 State Run

May 11th, by *Jill & Dennis Dame*

Wow is all I can say when approach by Dennis (my trusting husband and fellow newsletter editor/photographer) Five States, 300 miles, all in one day plus poker? First off being from Maryland the five states didn't bother me they are pretty small on the east coast but 300 miles was very scary and poker I know nothing about. Needless to say I was apprehensive at best, but I have dubbed this the year of YES so I filled out the registration, mailed it in, and waited. Due to chilly weekends we have not been able to ride as much so this weekend would be the most miles we have ridden all at once. We set out early Friday morning to a slightly chilly ride but sunny. We took a leisurely route and made it to Guymon around 3 pm.

As we approached the town it was obvious a motorcycle event was taking place. Bikes of all types, colors and loudness filled hotels, restaurants and gas stations. This was my first motorcycle centric event and I was amazed. We checked into the hotel walked across the street for dinner at the Roundtop (good burgers) then back to the hotel. I must admit we were both tired, but looking forward to the next day. We had met numerous people at the hotel and the restaurant that had done the event many times. They all talked about the professionalism of

the event and the fun they had experienced. A group from Muskogee, Oklahoma had done the run for the last six years in a row and with those wonderful Oklahoma accents assuring me it would be worth the time, I was ready.

We turned in early with plans to get a quick hotel breakfast and be at the fairground ready to ride early. We raised the kickstand around 7:45 am and made our way to the first stop in Texas. We were met by a group of smiling riders and enthusiastic volunteers, who happily guided us through the first checkpoint procedures. Once our cards were punched, we geared up and headed to New Mexico then out to Colorado and to a cool little museum in Kansas. A quick note of thanks to the Kansas volunteers for the cold drinks and homemade cookies and enthusiastic discussions. All the volunteers at each check point were extremely nice and fun to chat with while we rested. They shared notes about other things to see in the area for our next visit. We were back on the road for our last leg leading us to Guymon, with the temperature rising to 90 degrees.

We turned in our cards for scoring. Dennis's card was promptly tossed in the trash with a better luck next year, but mine was put into 2nd place with triple 8's. We went to the hotel to relax then back for provided dinner and announcement of prizes. I must admit I had brief dreams of winning (LOL).

All in all we survived and had a fantastic time. The scenery was very different compared to Colorado. Roads are long and straight. The terrain is flat. Everyone was super friendly, all of which made this a memorable and special event. We will be back next year for sure.

My status in 2nd place didn't hold long enough to win but it was fun dreaming for a while.....

After over a thousand miles in three days I must say I'm a little sore but I will defiantly be up for another ride soon.

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Some fun facts about the 2026 Guymon Ride, for your next Trivia session:

- Youngest rider 15 years old.
- Oldest rider 82 years old.
- Next year marks the 25th running and they claim its gonna be bigger and better than ever.
- \$3000 Grand prize; \$1500 for 2nd, \$1000, for 3rd.
- Farthest rider team came from Wisconsin.
- The newsletter team plans to attend in 2027; hotel is booked.
- The 2027 ride will be May 8, 2027.

Ride and Restaurant Review

by Jill Dame

As a passenger I take my job very seriously. My job is to sit still. I am very good at it. When you ask me about a ride I will tell you it was pretty loved the rocks or vistas or it was chilly or hot but I will not be able to give you details about the route that I leave to my trusty driver. For years I was the driver. I drove the kids around to school and sporting events. I drove most of the way on vacations so I am happy to surrender the driving duties over and just enjoy the ride.

One of our favorite rides is to Victor CO. I love the ride through Old Town Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs. I especially like the drive up to Woodland Park, with the windy roads and tall rock formations, plus the occasional glimpse of Pikes Peak. Beautiful scenery.

We travel fairly quiet roads accompanied by fellow riders and the infrequent big tour buses going

to Cripple Creek loaded with hopeful gamblers. As we get closer to Victor the skeletons of old mining derricks and buildings become plentiful. There are remnants of an old train trestle that goes no where now, but in its time it took hundreds of miners and stary eyed prospectors to the little boom town,

Victor is a notch above a ghost town now with a few businesses and restaurants but we love this little gem of yesteryear. A little more than an hour from the Springs it is a fun ride when time is an issue.

Dirty Sally's Pizzeria is a favorite eating spot. Good pizza and great atmosphere awaits. Pool table, air hockey and a variety of arcade games are free to use. They don't even mind if you are a very slow pool player take your time and have fun.

If you have a few hours, like a scenic ride, then head up to Victor and check out the pizzeria. If you have enough time, then play a round of pool, or if you are feeling nostalgic then try your hand at Pac-Man. Just have fun.

Rookie Mistake

by Dennis

We were getting ready for a ride. I was getting the bike ready, checked the tire pressure, packed the bags, flip on the bike to load the GPS, got distracted getting the intercom working, soon about 30 minutes passed by. We put on the helmets and jackets. We threw our legs over, shifted into neutral, and hit the start button. No familiar roar of the iron horse, just a click. I try it again and the same results. A quick survey of gear, kickstand and one more try. Darn, the battery doesn't have enough juice to start. We just had ridden a few days ago.

I take the seat off, to find a heavy duty cover over the battery compartment. I pop it loose, to find a plastic cover over the battery. I pop it off, to find the terminals are barely accessible. Running out of time for a rendezvous with friends, so I put it all back

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together, push it back into the garage and attach the tender. Then I notice that the seat heater switch was in the on position, so the heater was working while I was configuring the GPS, etc. A rookie mistake, that hopefully I am the only one this has happened to.

A great opportunity, as a new rider, to reflect on the frustrating and embarrassing moment. What if we had been on the road? Normally I don't take the tender. I did not have the star wrench in the bike bags to loosen the seat bolt, but my tool box in the garage has a complete set. How does one jump start a newer bike? More research is required, along with a chat with other members and perhaps a YouTube or two. If of interest, we can post a recommendation on starting a newer bike with a dead battery.

Share your lessons learned to make us all better equipped for those challenging moments.

Hotels in May 1997 Issue #3

Hotels in the area of the HOG Regional Rally in Durango:

- Vista Hotel: \$18 - \$48
- Holiday Inn: \$70 - \$75
- Econ Lodge \$36 - \$58
- Area Bed and Breakfasts
- Blue Lake Ranch \$45 - \$70
- Victoria Inn \$45 - \$55
- Angel Haus \$45 - \$65
- Whispering Pines \$70 and up

A time with no cell phones and search engines

Tid Bits from the 90s

- Chapter dues in 1987 were \$10 per year
- A flyer for the Pikes Peak HOG Christmas Party was held at the Ramada Inn and

advertised rooms available for \$24 for a single or \$30 for a double. Members could attend for \$10 which included a meal. Food 7:30pm and eat till ya puke

- Jan1990: headline was the Chapter was granted a Liquor License.
- A chance to win a dream luxury vacation a Cruise to the Caribbean or Hawaii or Disney World and cruise combination. The package included round trip air fare from Denver, transportation from airport to port of call and hotel for two people. Valued at ready for this \$1,500.
- October 1992: the chapter met on Sundays at the Borderline Cafe
- July 1993 announced a problem with noise and the residence that surround the "shop" readers were warned that new Harley's with stock pipes right off the show room floor will NOT pass the Colorado Springs requirements for noise. Apparently there were a lot of noise "tickets" being handed out.
- May 1994 advertised the Colorado's Freedom ride Southern Colorado to benefit Muscular Dystrophy Association events to include at grand prize. Win a Brand New 1994 Softball custom Harley - Davidson motorcycle valued at over \$13,500. <editor's note - Bring back the 90s!!>
- July 1994 had an article about How Many Motorcycles were there in the world. The researchers claim there were 94 million in 1990 up 12 million from the year before. Just for fun - 600 - 700 million in 2024 most in India and China..

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Food reviews

Send your endorsements for places to eat. For example, we like Dirty Sally's Pizzeria and the Gold Camp Bakery; both are in Victor, CO.

On-going Challenge Rides

- High Altitude Mountain Pass Awards given for 10, 15, 20, 25 and 29 visited that are at least 10,000'.
- Discover Colorado - 25 specific stops by 1 Nov 2026
- Ride 365 - See website
- 50 Nations - See website
- 15 pre-determined rides for 2026 - See website

Rides: See website for updates

- Rocky Mountain HOG Rally - 11-14 June Durango
- Aluminum Butt (500 miles)- 27 June
- 5 Mountain passes in 1 day - 18 July
- Christmas Party - 5 December
- Additional rides published in the club email announcements and Facebook.

Greetings from the Backseat

by Jill Dame

I know I talk from the minority position on the motorcycle but for me its my favorite with no desire to move up. While raising two active kids I

spent a lot of time behind a wheel. To academic events, friends, sporting practiced and games I enjoyed the position of control. But now I relinquish the control to my able husband fully. So join me as I will talk of a different view and experience. Who knows maybe I can talk a few of you into trying a different seat. Or empower those who already enjoy the view on the back and of the drivers head.

But first things first. I will start this column with a question. With your responses I will then know how to proceed in the next newsletter or if there is no interest I will shift my efforts to other things motorcycle related.

Here goes: As a short passenger with a tall driver my view is the lower part of his helmet and his shoulders. I of course can look side to side but the front view is obstructed. So is it considered rude to other riders if the passenger/backpack or ballast does not wave? Really I'm not trying to be rude I honestly can see until the other bike is beside me which is usually too late to wave. Please send your answer or experience on the back to the newsletter email at: newsletter@pphog.com

Your News Letter

Please help make your 405 new newsletter interesting, by letting us know what you would like to see. More or less pictures, more or less stories about rides and events, personal stories about members, interviews with PPHD staff or practical information about maintenance or changes regarding motorcycle laws or issues, ride reviews, frequency of newsletter, etc. Send comments to the editors at newsletter@pphog.com.

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Coffee - Test Article?

by Dennis

This is an article test area for a series of what I hope will lead to good discussions. This first one is coffee. We get our beans from a local, Veteran owned coffee shop and roaster, Corter Coffee Roasters. The team is friendly and helpful. Comments are highly welcomed since this is your newsletter. We have several coffee shops we visit from time to time throughout the regional area and we like trying new spots.

On a whim, we took a ride last Saturday from the south side of Colorado Springs to Castle Rock. Randomly picking a coffee shop with 4.0 ratings or above, we ended up with La La Coffee and Boba Tea. Sounds a little too much non traditional, however my back seat driver says it is the year of "Yes", so kickstand up at 0722.

The route:

- 21, AKA Powers
- 83 North
- Gulch Road into Castle Rock, then
- W. Wolfensberger Rd
- 105 to 25 on home.

The ride included some extremely scenic rock formations, back dropped by an amazing Colorado Blue Sky with the occasional perfectly white cloud.

A few minor twists on 83 north. Around one turn, there were several mule deer grazing about. Picturesque. Another turn was a Llama farm, then some extremely long horn cows. A few more miles and around a turn there was another small herd of mule deer, more anxious than the previous. The lead ducked through a fence with several others primed to follow. Most were likely the others

would just jump over the fence. The roar of our Harley started them, ears up, tails up, staring directly at our machine as we rode by, both locking eyes.

As we parked at La La, it seemed a bit upscale to what we were used to. Jives remains our bar setting coffee shop on Sunday mornings. However, we were greeted by a very friendly staff and several patrons returned a smile. We happened to pick the morning that the local Expecting Mothers group was meeting. A friendly crowd.

The coffee was good, both drip and Americano. Both were good without milk/cream, which is a good sign.

We welcome input either on this article, or what is your favorite coffee shop, or whim ride? We hope to hear from you.

Please send comments, articles, one liners to newsletter@pphog.com. It doesn't need to be perfect and you can be part of the growing newsletter team.

*Looking forward to hearing
from you*

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